

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STOCKH 04690 041006Z
ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 NEA-10 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05
H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 PRS-01
SP-02 SS-15 USIA-15 IO-14 OMB-01 TRSE-00 ACDA-12
DHA-05 MCT-01 /123 W
-----039076 050457Z /17

R 031429Z NOV 77
FM AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2185
INFO AMEMBASSY ALGIERS
AMEMBASSY DAKAR
AMEMBASSY NAUOKCHOTT
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY RABAT

UNCLAS STOCKHOLM 4690

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PINS, MO, MR, FR
SUBJECT: POLISARIO LEADER CALLS FRANCE THREAT TO PEACE
IN SAHARA

1. IN NOVEMBER 2 PRESS CONFERENCE IN STOCKHOLM, POLISARIO VICE GENERAL SECRETARY BACHIR NUSTAPHA SAYED ACCUSED FRANCE OF OPEN INTERVENTION IN POLISARIO'S GUERRILLA WAR AGAINST MAURITANIA AND MOROCCO. SAYED'S REMARKS CAME IN THE WAKE OF THE DISPATCH OF FRENCH PARATROOPERS TO MAURITANIA, FOLLOWING THE KIDNAPPING OF TWO FRENCHMEN LAST WEEK BY POLISARIO FORCES. SAYED LABELED THE FRENCH INTERVENTION AS A THREAT TO "PEACE AND SECURITY" IN THE REGION.

2. ACCORDING TO SAYED, "WE HAVE NEVER WANTED TO DRAW FRANCE INTO A CONFLICT IN WHICH FRANCE HAS DECLARED ITSELF NEUTRAL. BUT FRENCH INTERVENTION HAS BEEN TAKING PLACE DURING THE LAST WEEK AGAINST OUR LIBERATION WAR AGAINST MAURITANIA AND MOROCCO." SAYED IS CURRENTLY ON A VISIT TO THE
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NORDIC COUNTRIES TO STRENGTHEN POLISARIO CONTACTS WITH THE GOVERNMENTS CONCERNED. HE NOTED THAT THE SCANDIANVIAN COUNTRIES WERE THE FIRST TO GIVE SUBSTANTIAL HELP TO WEST AFRICAN REFUGEES.

3. SAYED DECLARED THAT FRENCH TROOPS ARE NOW TO BE FOUND IN BORDER TOWNS IN THE TWO COUNTRIES WHICH FOR

THE PAST TWO YEARS HAVE CARRIED OUT "AN EXTERMINATION WAR AGAINST OUR PEOPLE." HE DECLARED THE FRENCH INTERVENTION TO BE A FORM OF PUNITIVE EXPEDITION AGAINST THE GUERRILLAS FOR THEIR PERSISTENCE IN HOLDING BACK TWO INVASION ARMIES.

4. SAYED WARNED THAT THE FRENCH MOVE WOULD ONLY LEAD TO AN EXPANSION OF THE GUERRILLA STRUGGLE. HE DECLARED HIMSELF TO REPRESENT A "PEACEFUL PEOPLE WHO WANT FREEDOM AND INDEPENDENCE," AND ACCUSED THE FRENCH OF TRYING TO DEPICT HIS GROUP AS TERRORISTS.

5. SAYED ACCUSED THE GOF OF ATTEMPTING TO PARALYZE FRENCH PUBLIC OPINION BEFORE THE FRENCH ELECTIONS, AND OF USING THE "DISAPPEARANCE" OF THE FRENCH AS AN EXCUSE TO STRENGTHEN FRENCH MILITARY POSITIONS. HOWEVER, HE REFUSED TO CONFIRM OR DENY THAT POLISARIO HELD THE FRENCH TECHNICIANS.

6. REGARDING POLISARIO RELATIONS WITH ALGERIA, SAYED WOULD ONLY SAY THAT THEY WERE "DEVELOPING NORMALLY."
KENNEDY-MINOTT

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